



## THE ADVISOR

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The faces of Iraqi soldiers and police have been altered to protect their identities.

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**ON THE COVER**

**National Police secure a building during training Feb. 23 in Numaniyah.**

Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

# Iraqi forces take control of Baghdad Security

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — Iraqi Security Forces have taken control of Baghdad's security for the first time, said a senior military official.

Iraqi Security Forces took control of Operation Fardh Al-Qanoon, or "Rule of Law" Mar 1. The plan was designed by the Iraqi government and is led by Iraqi Army Lt. Gen. Abboud Gambar, said Army Brig. Gen. Joseph Anderson, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, Chief of Staff.

Coalition forces are working in concert with Iraqi Security Forces to provide a 24-hour presence in the city. Abboud and his staff now plan and execute the strategy from a new command post established in Adnan Palace in the International Zone.

Anderson called establishing the Iraqi-led Baghdad operations command a "monumental feat." He said the Iraqi security forces have come a long way in the past month as a command organization.

Both the Iraqi Police and the Iraqi Army are "very capable, competent ... and the ability to plan and coordinate operations with Coalition forces gets better every day," he said.

Coalition and Iraqi forces have built joint security stations and combat outposts throughout the city to begin securing the area.

This presence represents a critical shift away from operating out of forward – operating bases and instead its maintaining a constant presence in the city – a presence that is needed to hold areas that security

forces have cleared, Anderson said.

"In the past, we have been able to clear areas, but were not able to hold the areas and secure them over time," Anderson said. "We must demonstrate our ability to maintain the security in Baghdad over a long period of time."

Anderson said protecting local citizens is necessary to develop the economic and political processes needed to achieve stability in the area.

About 20,000 Iraqi Security Forces troops will eventually operate in Baghdad, he said. Currently, the 6th and 9th Iraqi Army divisions and two National Police divisions patrol the city.

Up to 15 U.S. Army brigade combat teams will be stationed there. The U.S. Army's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and the 4th BCT, 1st Infantry Division, have recently moved into Baghdad, he said. It is expected that the full complement of U.S. troops will be on the ground by the end of May, Anderson said.

Anderson said that the increased presence already has resulted in as many as 20 fewer daily attacks on Coalition forces and the local population. Still, he said, there are typically up to 90 attacks per day in Baghdad.

Iraqi citizens also are more willing to help Coalition forces with the increased presence, Anderson said. This has led to recent large weapons caches found in the area.

Even with the operation's recent successes, Anderson acknowledged it will not be an easy road to a safe and secure Baghdad.

"We know hard days certainly lie ahead," he said.

*"In the past, we have been able to clear areas, but were not able to hold the areas and secure them over time...we must demonstrate our ability to maintain the security in Baghdad over a long period of time."*

**U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Joseph Anderson,  
Multi-National Corps – Iraq, Chief of Staff**



# Q & A - Commander, Besmaya Range Complex

The Besmaya Range Complex is the largest training base in Iraq. Located east of Baghdad, the sprawling military facility encompasses an area of 225 square kilometers with the capacity to train large numbers of troops. One key component of the Baghdad Security Plan requires the placement of several Iraqi Army battalions throughout the capital's beladiyehs – neighborhoods – to stop the sectarian violence. The BRC plays a critical role by providing training facilities that prepares troops to deploy in support of the operation. The facility's commander, Iraqi Army Col. Abbas explained to the The Advisor the role the facility will play in the Baghdad Security Plan.

**Q: What function does this training facility serve?**

**A:** This training facility is the biggest in Iraq. The Iraqi Army's responsibility is to provide for the safety and security of its people and its borders. This installation trains the soldiers to do their duty. We have several ranges on our training site where battalions can train. We have the capacity to train, feed and house up to 1,700 soldiers - two battalions.

**What kind of support does this facility provide in support of the Baghdad Security Plan?**

Our goal is to train more than 40 battalions based on the Ministry of Defense plan to put these battalions in Baghdad for the Baghdad Security Plan. We began training battalions Feb. 12. and we will train two battalions every two weeks to fulfill the MOD's directive.

**How are the facilities arranged for use by the battalions?**

All the ranges are available to the battalions. We present the battalion commander with our capabilities and he chooses what he wants to use based on the needs of his battalion.

**What role will this facility play in**

**the future of Iraq?**

The future is in Iraq and the United States being allies. Sooner or later the terrorists will leave. Many people now begin to understand what the United States and the new Iraqi Army is doing to help the Iraqi people. The terrorists want to break this system and wear muslim clothing but now people are beginning to see the real face of the terrorists' religion. The citizen is asking: "What does the terrorist do?" The Coalition forces build – terrorists destroy. Terrorists kill people in the market and kill little children in schools. The terrorist does not respect human life and the people see this. This base will train the soldiers who fight the terrorists and bring peace to Iraq.

**What will increasing the Iraqi Army presence in Iraq do?**

The presence of many soldiers in the communities gives people the opportunity to report insurgents. Citizens are now able to easily approach Iraqi Army soldiers or go to an Iraqi police station to make a report. The people are beginning to speak their voice. The elections last year was the first time we had free elections in Iraq. This was a void filled with the voice of the people voting for freedom.

**What kind of relationship does this facility have with the local communities.**

We have a very strong relationship with the local villages. We are an integral component of the economic development of these people. We employ 85 percent of the local population here on the base. We gave the school a generator and other equipment so the teachers can keep giving classes to the children. We have visited the school several times to deliver food, toys and school supplies for the children. The people appreciate this help and will not allow the terrorists to attack our facility. When the people fight on our side they do not fight against us. To give you an example of this, just two weeks ago we



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Iraqi Army Col. Abbas, Commander, Besmaya Range Complex.**

had a great lunch with 22 sheiks - local leaders - to see how we could all work together and we all signed a document testifying to our friendship.

**Where do you see this facility in the next few years?**

I see us with a better water system and paved roads. My plan is for all Iraqi Army soldiers and officers to come here and develop their skills. I also want to see a medical and dental facility here to take care of our soldiers. I see a future where Iraq is the most advanced nation in the Arab world with a secure and prosperous economy and good educational opportunities for our children. I see a strong partnership with the United States, like brothers across an ocean helping each other out in many ways. ■

*"When the people fight on our side they do not fight against us."*

**Iraqi Army Col. Abbas,  
Commander Besmaya Range**

# More troops for Baghdad

By U.S. Navy  
MC2 Elisandro Diaz  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

**NEW AL-MUTHANNA, Iraq** — A new era was ushered into Iraq's history books with the arrival of Iraqi troops from the Kurdish north to New Al-Muthanna Air Base on Feb. 25. The soldiers are scheduled to deploy to the nation's capital in support of the security initiative that is an important component of the Baghdad Security Plan.

Iraqi Army Gen. Babakir, Commander, Iraqi Joint Forces, greeted the soldiers as they arrived at the Iraqi air base on the outskirts of Baghdad. The soldiers, attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Army Division stationed in Sulaminiyah are part of two battalions which number more than 1,450 troops, slated to attend a three-week training regimen at Besmaya Range Complex that will prepare them for the urban environment in Baghdad.

The troop arrival is a crucial turning point in several key areas in the development of Iraq's military capabilities. This is the first time that soldiers from



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 10th Battalion, 2nd Iraqi Army Division arrive at New Al-Muthanna Air Base Feb. 25. The troops came to Baghdad to support the Baghdad Security Plan.**

the Kurdish autonomous region have deployed to other areas of Iraq. These soldiers are part of the second group of troops deployed to Baghdad. The plan is to rotate Iraqi Army battalions into Baghdad to increase the presence of security forces and bring the rule of law to the nation's capital by augmenting Iraqi Security and Coalition forces throughout the city.

Another milestone is the development of Iraq's military transport capabilities. The soldiers flew into Baghdad aboard an Iraqi Air Force C-130 piloted by an all Iraqi crew belonging to Squadron 23.

The troops are scheduled to attend training at Besmaya before deploying into operations in Baghdad, where they will learn to do house raids, checkpoints and ground patrols among other tactics. In addition, those soldiers who don't know Arabic will learn some.

"The soldiers may not know Arabic now but soon will," said Babakir. He addressed the newly arrived troops in his

native Kurdish and also in Arabic.

The BRC is located on an Iraqi Army base that has the capacity for battalion level training. It is where all the battalions taking part in the Baghdad Security Plan are scheduled to complete their training before going into Baghdad.

The government of Iraq has planned to deploy the soldiers for a period of 90-days in Baghdad with the option for the soldiers to extend their tour an additional three months. The soldiers are also scheduled to receive a pay increase during their deployment.

"The soldiers are ready, motivated and excited about this mission and want to be a part of it," U.S. Army Lt. Col. Art Grimwald, the unit's senior Coalition advisor said. He drew a comparison between the morale of the soldiers in the army under the previous regime and that of the troops now. "Before soldiers were forced into joining. Now the army is composed of an entire volunteer force," he stated.



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**An Iraqi Army soldier stands guard as an Iraqi Air Force C-130 makes a delivery of troops to New Al-Muthanna Air Base Feb. 25. The aircraft is piloted by an all-Iraqi crew.**

**See BAGHDAD, Page 5**



# More troops for Baghdad Security Plan



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 10th Battalion, 2nd Iraqi Army Division located in the Kurdish north are part of the security forces slated to take part in the Baghdad Security Plan.**

## From BAGHDAD, Page 4

Grimwald explained how the citizens are increasingly approaching Iraqi Army soldiers to provide them information on insurgents, "There is cooperation between the citizens and the Iraqi Army because the citizens are beginning to see a difference and there is a break in the fear barrier (from the citizens towards the Iraqi Army)," he said.

Iraqi Army Cpt. Almed, assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, explained the mood of the soldiers in his battalion, "my comrades and I are very happy to be here – we all want to participate in the Baghdad Security Plan."

"We are Kurds coming from Irbil to help our nation," Almed said, describing solidarity with the entire nation of Iraq.

Iraqi Army Gen. Ali, Commander Ground Forces Command, reiterated this sentiment in his address to the troops, "We welcome you to Baghdad and are so proud of you coming from the north, which is part of Iraq – we are one nation, one heart."

Ali described that the impact the troops will have on Baghdad will also impact the rest of the nation, "Baghdad first and Iraq is next," he said.



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

## RPG Training

**Soldiers assemble RPGs – rocket propelled grenades – during battalion level collective training at Besmaya Range Complex Feb. 21.**

# New officers attend inaugural course

By U.S. Air Force  
Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

**AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq** — Almost two dozen officers are training at the Iraqi Army Military Police School as part of a new program that requires newly-commissioned officers to report to a training institution for specialty training. The Military Police School offers instruction specifically tailored for officers within the military police career field.

Iraqi Army Warrant Officer Abbas, the school's senior instructor, expressed his optimism about the new mission. He anticipates the training at this base located 100 miles south of Baghdad will lead to successes for the units the officers are assigned to once they graduate.

"This is a very great thing to get the officer's course to the MP school," he said through an interpreter. "Our mission is to teach the officers new techniques like arresting people, reacting to hostage situations, securing buildings and leading their troops. This is all stuff that is going on outside the wire and we need to teach them these techniques."

The officers came from a variety of schools, with the largest group coming from the Iraqi Military Academy Al Rustamiyah. The officers received intensive training on general military skills prior to their arrival at Numaniyah. However, the 10-week military police OBC will focus primarily on tasks pertaining to that branch, according to Coalition officials.

"Other branches are doing these officer basic courses too, such as infantry, engineering and other military specialties," said U.S. Army Col. Claude Schmid, a senior MNSTC-I official.

Other OBC's are held at Camp Taji, Kirkush Military Training Base, Besmaya Range Complex and other locations around the country that are conducive to the specialty the officer has been selected to fill.

Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Bashar, the school's assistant officer-in-charge, believes that



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

**Iraqi Army Warrant Officer Hussein, an instructor for the military police officer basic course at An Numaniyah Military Training Base, explains tactics to a class of new lieutenants going through the program Feb 23.**

this first class is just the first step of many as the military police mission begins to take shape in the Iraqi Army.

"After this class graduates, we will plan to bring many officers here to teach them MP skills and tactics before we send them to their units," he said through an interpreter. "What I see from this school is a very excellent for the officers. We expect the school to get as many officers to come here for training as possible, and we hope to build up their skills to progress through the school."

Iraqi Army Warrant Officer Hussein, a 27-year veteran, says the lessons taught at the officer basic course for military police are significantly different from what enlisted soldiers receive.

"The officer is trained to see things as they happen for himself and make a decision," he said through an interpreter.



Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Nathan Banks

**Iraqi Army officers receive instruction on river crossing tactics Feb. 23 at An Numaniyah Military Training Base.**

**See COURSE, Page 7**



# Military Police officer school first of its kind

## COURSE, From Page 6

“He has a different mindset than those below him so he can lead his troops through whatever situation they find themselves in. He must know everything about how to conduct these operations.”

To help get his students thinking along those lines, Hussein takes on an informal give-and-take approach when he conducts his training sessions.

“When I give them a situation, I give them a chance to create a plan to deal with it,” he said. “I tell them to ask themselves ‘what’s the best idea for this?’ and ‘by doing this, can I accomplish my mission?’

“This gets them used to the idea that they have to take charge,” Hussein said.

The course features a combination of classroom lectures as well as a chance to get out into Numaniyah’s extensive training areas to go over practical drills.

One of the drills the officers practiced Feb. 23 was a river crossing on the outskirts of a village. After spreading out and establishing a control point for vehicle traffic in and out of the sector, Hussein had the officers consider additional tasks.

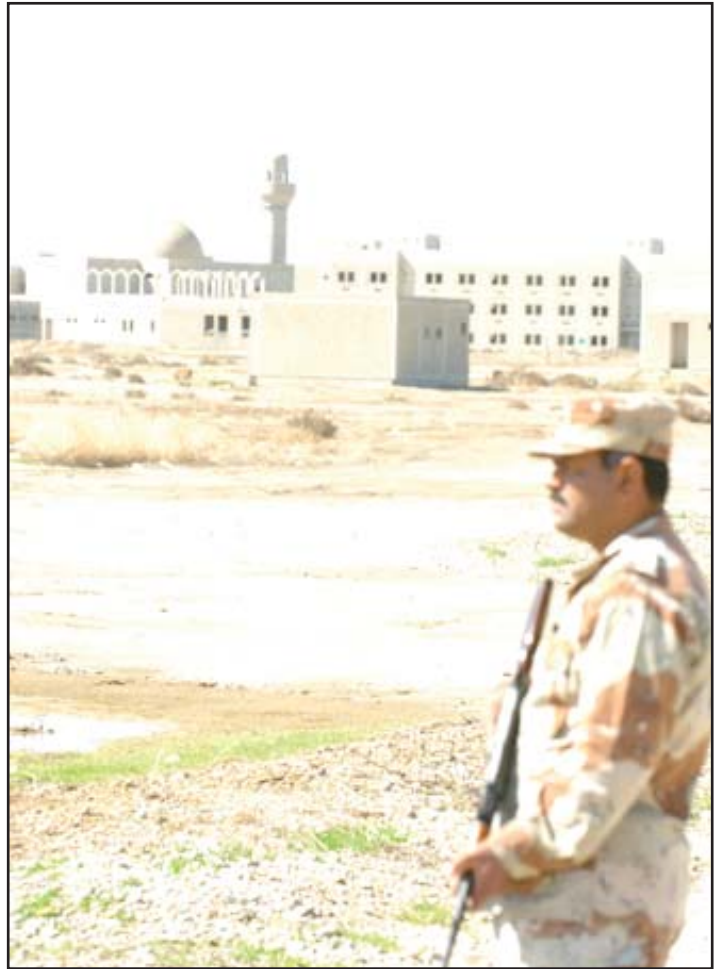
“I asked them to think about making sure the other side is secure. Have the civilians coming in and out been searched, have we been informed of prisoner movements through the area, did we coordinate with a military engineer to see if it is safe, did we coordinate with the local mayor to address any local concerns? Many things like that,” he said.

One of the students, Iraqi Army 2nd Lt. Ali, was impressed with the exercise.

“I am very happy with this training,” he said. “I am learning how to control my troops and how to conduct a mission. This is a very good experience.”

Ali is assigned to the 10th Iraqi Army Division. He has experience performing the military police mission in the Al-Anbar province and with his unit in Basrah.

“I appreciate the chance the army has given me to come here and learn individual military skills and enhance my leadership skills.”



Photos by U.S. Army Maj. Nathan Banks

**An Iraqi Army officer secures a road during an exercise at An Numaniyah Military Training Base Feb. 23. The officer is attending a 10-week long course designed to train officers in military police-specific tasks.**



**Iraqi Army officers take up positions on a simulated bridge during an exercise to conduct river crossings Feb. 23 at An Numaniyah Military Training Base. The course is made up of nearly two dozen newly-commissioned officers.**

# Besmaya hosts training

By U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

**BESMAYA, Iraq** — Gen. Babakir, Commander of the Iraqi Military's Joint Headquarters, and other high-ranking military and Coalition forces personnel visited the Besmaya Range Complex in Besmaya, Iraq Feb. 20 to see the training of units heading into Baghdad as part of the Baghdad Security Command.

The training takes on greater significance as the Baghdad Security Plan requires the deployment of a greater number of Iraqi Army troops. They will bolster the Iraqi Army, Police and Coalition forces already stationed in the nation's capital, who are there to reduce sectarian violence.

The Fardh Al-Qanoon or the "Rule of Law," as the operation is known, and strongly supported by Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki, seeks to increase the presence of security forces throughout Baghdad's beladiyahs, arabic for neighborhoods, to counter the sectarian violence and bloodshed.

Iraqi Army Col. Abbas, the Commander of Besmaya, explained how the battalion level training being conducted there is increasing the battle readiness of these soldiers by indoctrinating them in close quarter combat and urban warfare tactics that will prepare them for Baghdad's urban environment.

Soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division were wrapping up their training and preparing to deploy to Baghdad when Lt. Mohammed explained the significance of the training they had undertaken.

"Before we go into Baghdad we come here to get special training that will help us, especially how to control the streets and I am proud to go to the city because the people there need our help," Mohammed said.

Mohammed went on to explain that the soldiers and officers of his battalion are ready and excited to get to Baghdad to do their duty.

"I am not afraid to go to Baghdad because the people there are my people and they want peace. I want to be part of the peace," he said.

According to Abbas, the training facility was revamped by Coalition forces for their use. It was subsequently transferred to



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Troops from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division get ready for their trip into Baghdad for the Baghdad Security Plan initiative Feb 20.**

the Iraqi Army in late 2005 and has been used to build the battle capacity of Iraqi Security Forces. According to Abbas, Besmaya, as the biggest training facility in Iraq, it will continue to play a role in the training, proficiency and sustainment of its armed forces in support of the prime minister's initiative as well as for the nation's security.

United States Marine Corps 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Shane Patton, a coalition advisor at the Besmaya Range Complex, described that the Besmaya facility has the capacity to train more than 1,700 soldiers, the equivalent of two battalions, and is ideally suited to simultaneously train the large numbers of troops that make up army battalions.



**A soldier learns urban warfighting skills Feb. 20 at the Besmaya Range Complex.**

**See BESMAYA, Page 9**



# Battalion level training at Besmaya

## From BESMAYA, Page 8

With 16 ranges, it has the capability to provide tank, mortar, rocket propelled grenade and urban warfare training among other training, concurrently within its 220 square kilometer compound east of Baghdad.

Abbas described that among some of the training Besmaya supports is live-fire training for a wide range of weapons systems from small arms to tank gunnery.

The facility features an advanced course in Military Operations Urban Terrain (MOUT). The training is made up of 11 buildings where the soldiers practice entering and clearing rooms. Each building has several rooms and a second level that brings realism to the training. In addition, the course features front and rear stairways which challenge



**Soldiers provide cover for their teammates who are inside clearing a building as part of urban operations training at Besmaya Range Complex Feb. 20.**

the soldiers' responses and teamwork as they proceed through the course. The structures also have observation catwalks so the instructors can monitor the teams as they proceed through the course, Abbas said.

In addition to battalion level training, there are also recurring courses for officers and enlisted soldiers. These courses continue their professional development after graduating from the academy or boot camp.

Abbas explained how some officers, recently graduated from Iraq's military officer academies, attended the Combined Arms Training and Basic Infantry courses. He said there are 150 officers presently attending the six-week courses.

Enlisted soldiers can also attend the Mortar, Advanced Marksmanship and Sniper courses. These are also six-week courses with an average of eight soldiers who complete both courses, Abbas explained.

Abbas pointed out how Besmaya is staffed by 600 personnel who are in charge of ensuring base availability to the battalions and providing base protection.

"We have achieved self-sustainment of the mortar course because the course is led and run by Iraqis with no Coalition assistance," Abbas said.

Abbas described the facility's capacity to provide logistics for large numbers of troops.

"We provide sufficient food, water and sanitation to the soldiers in the battalions and we have sufficient housing for two battalions, their brigade staff and the Military Training Teams that accompany them. We also have work spaces and indoor and outdoor classrooms where they can be trained," he said.

"We also have soccer and basketball courts for the recreation of our soldiers."

Abbas explained that, while the facility provides the infrastructure to support the level training, the battalions provide their own fuel, transportation, maintenance support, medical support, sleeping linen, training schedules and trainers.

Abbas cited some of the challenges



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

## **Troops learn combat maneuvers at the Besmaya Range Complex Feb. 20.**

Besmaya faces in its operation, such as the need for additional staff, but stressed that they still provide a quality facility to the many soldiers that train at the complex.

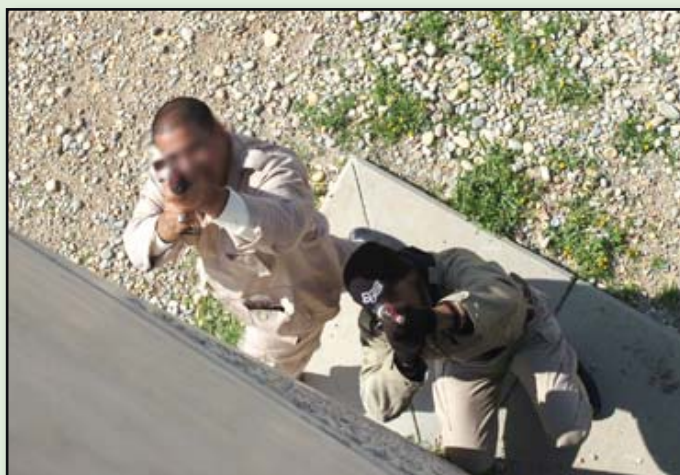
Abbas attributed part of the success the complex has attained to the relationship it has developed with the local communities. He described how the compound contributes significantly to the local economies by employing nearly 85 percent of the local workforce. The facility also continues to support the local clinics and schools by providing supplies and equipment. He described how these efforts have cultivated the support of the leaders of these communities.

According to Abbas, with the Baghdad Security Plan taking an ever increasing role in the sustained security of the nation's capital, the Besmaya Range Complex remains pivotal as the training facility for the troops that will be deploying into Baghdad to provide security for its residents.



## Quick Look II

**AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq** — Several hundred Iraqi National Policemen from the Salah ad Din province conducted training last month at An Numaniyah Military Training Base, Iraq. The police attended the training to reemphasize a variety of skills to include urban assault, combat lifesaver course, operation of checkpoints, human rights, detention of prisoners and other police and military tasks. The National Police are an elite unit of police officers who serve the interests of the entire Iraqi nation.



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson



## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### **Iraqi Police capture insurgents during raid**

**FALLUJAH** — Iraqi Police in Fallujah captured three suspected members of an al-Qaida in Iraq linked insurgent network during operations with Coalition advisors March 2 in Fallujah.

One suspect is believed to have participated in a recent attack on the Saqlawiyah Police station. The other suspects are implicated in recording insurgent attacks against Coalition forces on video and selling them to an Iraqi television station. The videos are broadcast to support AQI's effort to recruit more insurgents and incite attacks against Iraqi civilians and Coalition forces.

Iraqi forces detained one additional suspect for questioning.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### **Hillah SWAT captures militia cell leader**

**HILLAH** — Hillah Special Weapons and Tactical team members captured the suspected leader of a rogue Jaysh Al-Mahdi militia cell with Coalition advisors March 2 in Babil Province. The suspect allegedly control an improvised explosive device cell responsible for attacks against civilians and Coalition forces.

The suspect was implicated in six IED attacks since December that have resulted in the deaths of three Coalition Soldiers. He was reportedly involved in the murder of civilians working with Coalition forces.

Iraqi forces detained five additional suspected cell members for questioning.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### **Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers detain 42**

**YUSUFIYAH** — Iraqi and Coalition Soldiers detained 42 individuals approximately three miles southwest of Baghdad, March 1.

The soldiers detained the suspects for their alleged involvement in storing weapons and improvised explosive devices.

The detainees are being held for questioning.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

### **Iraqi Army detains 5 suspects, IED Builder**

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Special Operations Forces detained five suspects with the assistance of Coalition advisors March 1 in Baghdad targeting an improvised explosive device builder.

No Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### **Iraqi Police detain 6 during raid**

**FALLUJAH** — Iraqi Police detained six suspects with the help of Coalition advisors March 1 in Karma targeting al-Qaida in Iraq facilitators.

Iraqi Police targeted several suspected insurgents responsible for providing funds, weapons and transportation to al-Qaida in Iraq terrorists conducting attacks against Iraqi civilians and Iraqi Security Forces in the area.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

### **Huey II**

Iraqi Minister of Defense, Abdul Qadir Muhammed Jasim, waves as he takes a ride on an Iraqi Air Force Huey II helicopter in Baghdad March 3. Two of the newly overhauled Huey IIs were piloted to Phoenix Base to demonstrate their capabilities to senior Iraqi military leaders. The first five of 15 total aircraft were delivered to the IAF last week.

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### Iraqi soldiers respond to IEDs, rescue child

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi army forces dismantled 15 improvised explosive devices in al-Latifayah, al-Mahmoudiya, al-Youssifiyah, and al-Radwaniyah Feb. 28. During the IED disarming operations, Iraqi soldiers freed a kidnapped child in al-Mahmoudiya and captured two of the kidnapers.

— *Iraqi Ministry of Defense Public Affairs*

### Tips lead to weapons cache

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Army and Coalitions forces discovered a large weapons cache in the western Ameriya region of the nation's capital Feb. 27.

The soldiers discovered the cache after receiving a tip from a local resident.

The cache consisted of 34 rocket propelled grenades, 35 propellant sticks for the grenades, 11 mortar rounds, five bags of anti-personnel mines, seven rifles, one sniper rifle, and 14 crates of AK-47 ammunition.

Upon further inspection of the house, ball bearings, detonation cord and several other bomb making materials were discovered.

An explosive ordnance detonation team destroyed the munitions and weapons on site.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

### Iraqi forces capture 65 suspects, defuse IED

**BAGHDAD** — A unit from the Iraqi Army, backed by Coalition forces, executed a security siege in al-Ghammas area (al-Nabhan and al-Shuwarif) Feb. 26 and raided several safe houses based on intelligence information which stated the presence of armed groups of the "Heaven's Soldiers" movement, resulting in the capture of 65 suspects. The soldiers also defused an IED.

— *Iraqi Ministry of Defense Public Affairs*

### Iraqi forces disrupt terrorist cells in Titten

**BAQUBAH** — Iraqi soldiers, in conjunction with Coalition advisors, conducted a cordon and search operation targeting improvised explosive device and insurgent cells in Titten, Iraq, Feb. 24.

During the operation, the Iraqi soldiers detained six suspected terrorists who were transferred to the Khalis detention facility for further questioning.

A small cache of small arms munitions was discovered in the yard of one of the detainees.

Following the mission, the soldiers delivered school supplies throughout the area.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Police & Coalition forces discover cache

**BAQUBAH** — Information provided by a citizen led Iraqi Police officers from Judidah and Coalition forces to a large improvised explosive device cache Feb. 24. It consisted of the following:

Two explosively formed projectiles in various stages of assem-

bly; one completed improvised mine and more than a dozen more in various stages of construction; more than two dozen mortar rounds and 15 rockets; over 150 disks capable of producing as many individual EFPs; six rocket launchers; five anti-aircraft rounds; over two dozen rocket-propelled grenade warheads; more than 400 plastic and steel containers in various stages of fabrication for IED construction; large quantities of IED-making material such as detonation cord, C-4, blasting caps, fuses, EFP launching tubes, bags of ball bearings and voltage regulators

A Coalition forces explosive ordnance disposal unit safely disposed of some of the munitions with the majority of the cache being transferred to Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army detains 5 militia members

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Special Operations Forces detained five suspected rogue Jaysh Al-Mahdi militiamen with Coalition advisors Feb. 24 in Husayniyah, east of Taji.

The suspects are believed to be part of a rogue JAM network responsible for kidnapping, murders and improvised explosive device attacks against civilians and Iraqi Security Forces.

The suspects are implicated in several IED attacks against Coalition forces in northern Baghdad and Taji.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Chris McCann

### NCO course

Iraqi Army Sgt. Hamdullah of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division practices a patrol during the Iraqi Army's Warrior Leader Course for new noncommissioned officers in Mahmudiyah recently.